

Application No.: 10/523,490
Docket No.: SR0017

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OCT 27 2006

Page 5

REMARKS

Claims 1-28 are pending in the case. Group I is provisionally elected with traverse.

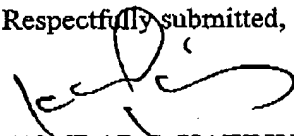
The restriction requirement is submitted to be improper because neither Kobo (US 5,229,473) nor Feiring (US 6,593,058), alone or in combination, disclose or suggest the use of repeat unit (b) of Claim 1 of the instant application in a fluorine-containing copolymer wherein at least one of $R^1 - R^{12}$ is OH or O_2CR^{13} and $R^1 - R^{13}$ are as defined in Claim 1 of the instant application. Both cited references disclose the use of CO_2R groups, but these are quite distinct from the O_2CR groups disclosed in Applicant's invention. Kobo's disclosure of an OH substituent is for a third monomer, which has a different ring structure from that of repeat unit (b). Similarly, the OH substituents disclosed by Feiring et al are not attached to a ring carbon, but rather to a carbon far removed from the ring, e.g., in $-CH_2OCH_2C(CF_3)_2OH$.

Applicants believe that the copolymers of Claims 1-12 represent an advance over the art and are both novel and non-obvious. The claims of Groups I-IV therefore share a "special technical feature" and as such need not be examined separately.

There is no change in the inventorship from that originally filed with the priority case.

Should there be any fee due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment, please charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 04-1928 (E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company).

Respectfully submitted,



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